Claims

1. A method of establishing a path for data transmissions in a system having a plurality of possible paths comprising:

establishing internal connection paths through the system based upon a configuration policy.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration policy comprises a configuration policy file stored within the system.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the configuration policy file is stored within a configuration database within the system.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the configuration policy may be dynamically changed within the system while the system continues to operate.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

changing established internal connection paths through the system based upon a configuration policy and changing resource needs.

6. A method of establishing a path for data transmissions in a system having a plurality of possible paths through a cross-connection card comprising

creating a configuration database; and

establishing internal connection paths through the card based upon a configuration policy and the configuration database.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises applying a configuration policy based on available system resources and needs at a given time.

8. The method of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises creating a table in the configuration database to provide connection information to the system.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of creating a table further comprises creating a path table.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of creating a table further comprises creating a service endpoint table.

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11. The method of claim 8 wherein the method further comprises establishing a partial record in a path table and a service point table when a user connects to a particular port on a universal port card in the system.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the method further comprises transmitting data ~~from partial records to a policy provisioning manager.~~

13. The method of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises implementing a connection policy based on a comparison of at least one new path characteristic with available resources on a forwarding card.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the comparison step further comprises comparing a desired number of time slots with available forwarding card resources.

15. The method of claim 13 wherein the comparison step further comprises comparing a desired number of virtual circuits with available forwarding card resources.

16. The method of claim 6 wherein the method further comprises storing configuration table settings in persistent storage to ensure that the configuration settings are maintained in the event of a system shut down.

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